**Powerloom Industry affected by hike in Excise duty**

2934. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Ten per cent hike in Excise duty is very much affected the powerloom industry as a whole resulting in unemployment of weavers and revenue loss for Government;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the ongoing strike of the powerloom industries;

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government to save the powerloom industries from the present crisis and to save the poor weavers from unemployment; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) In the Budget 2003-04 CENVAT chain has been completed by abolishing all exemptions except for genuinely disadvantaged sectors such as Khadi, hand processing without use of power, handloom, silk etc. The CENVAT chain has been completed to check duty evasion and to ensure a level playing field among various segments of the textile industry. Since all categories of yarn are already under the excise net, imposition of 10% excise on the grey woven powerloom industry would not have any major effect on this sector. However, some of the powerloom units have stopped production in major powerloom clusters demanding roll back to the earlier regime.

Realising the difficulties in compliance, the Government after detailed consultations with the powerloom industry, has prescribed a very simplified excise procedure for the textile sector. Government has also announced a powerloom package to stimulate modernisation and growth of this sector. It is expected that the completion of CENVAT chain would attract more investment and technological upgradation leading to creation of large employment opportunities.

**Handicraft Development Centres**

2935. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the Handicraft Development Centres for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Development Commissioner, Handicraft have separate Budget for the design and development of handicrafts and marketing it, if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise, product-wise, and

(c) the benefits traditional artisans have received in preserving their traditional arts and crafts of India, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) There are no centres in the name of Handicraft Development Centres in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. The detail of expenditure made under the scheme of design and technical development of handicrafts and marketing during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S. No. | Year | Plan Expenditure | | Non-Plan Expenditure | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Design & Development | Marketing | Design & Development | Marketing |
| 1. | 2000-2001 | 385.00 | 358.00 | 174.47 | 129.48 |
| 2. | 2001-2002 | 613.47 | 1489.43 | 232.89 | 153.04 |
| 3. | 2002-2003 | 2060.00 (Estimated) | 1073.00 (Estimated) | 280.00 (Estimated | 170.00 (Estimated) |

No State-wise and product-wise budget is allocated in the handicrafts sector.

(c) The Government is implementing a number of scheme to benefit traditional artisans for preserving their traditional arts and crafts. The schemes include:—AHVY, training and extension, design and technical upgradation, marketing support and services, research and development. Recently launched "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" (AHVY) seeks to develop selected artisans clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation and aims to achieve substainable development of the artisan clusters.

With the objective to give recognition to Mastercraftpersons and weaver, a scheme of conferring National Award to mastercraftperson is in existence since 1965. Since the inception of scheme 807 Mastercraftpersons and weavers have been conferred National Award.

In order to provide adequate financial incentives to motivate the traditional Mastercraftpersons to continue to produce masterpiece, a scheme to confer 10 (ten) National Awardees every year with the 'shilp Gurus' title has been launched during the celebration of Golden Jubilee of Handicrafts Resurgence in India in the year 2002. 10 National Awardees has already been conferred the Shilp Gurus' title by the Hon'ble President of India on 15th November, 2002. This is the highest award given to the mastercraftpersons in the country.

Similarly Mastercraftpersons who are recipients of National awards, Merit Certificate or State Awardees in handicrafts are eligible for receipt of grant of financial assistance under indigent circumstances in the form of pension.

**Supply of duty-free Yarn to weavers of Handloom Industries in the Country**

2936. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be please to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme by the Government to supply duty-free yarn to weavers of Handloom Industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of policies including financial aspects and various schemes introduced as on this day by Government for development of Handloom Industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India is introducing a Scheme *viz.* Scheme for Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn for supply of cotton and cellulosic spun yarn packed in plain reel hank form to the handloom weavers and their organizations at the price net of CENVAT. The Scheme will be implemented by National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), and by the State Government through State Apex handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies, State Handloom Development primary